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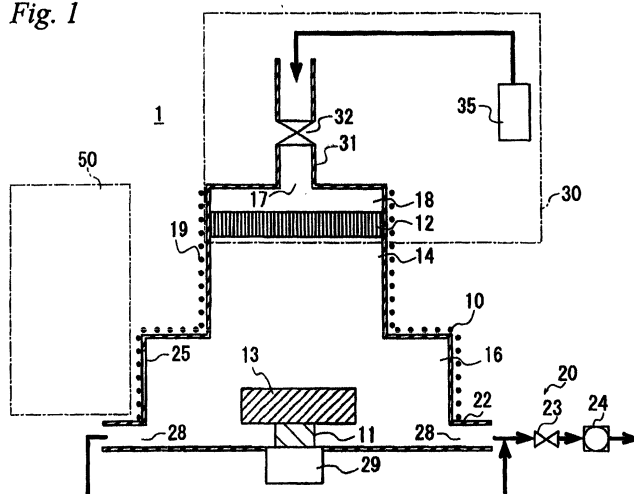
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(54) **Vacuum processing apparatus**

(57) A vacuum processing apparatus is capable of exhausting residual gas. With the reaction chamber (14) formed in the vacuum vessel (10) is made smaller than the assistance chamber (16), the thin film is grown by introducing the raw material gas (25) into the reaction chamber after moving the substrate stage toward the reaction chamber and decreasing the conductance of

evacuation of the reaction chamber. When exhausting the residual gas by vacuum pumping, the substrate stage is moved into the assistance chamber thereby increasing the conductance of evacuation of the reaction chamber. Pressure in the reaction chamber is increased when growing the thin film and decreases when exhausting the residual gas by vacuum pumping.

Fig. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 17 October 2003	Examiner Hoyer, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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